AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1.   (Original) A network-based sales system comprising:

a merchant computer sending an order of a product;

a defining unit; and

a distribution managing computer, wherein said defining unit defines a bar code of said product in response to said order, and notifies said distribution managing computer of said bar code, and wherein

said distribution managing computer manages distribution of said product based on said bar code.

2.   (Original) A network-based sales system comprising:

a merchant computer sending an order of a product;

a defining unit; and

a production managing computer, wherein said defining unit defines a bar code of said product in response to said order, and notifies said production managing computer of said bar code, and wherein

said production managing computer manages production of said product based on said bar code.

3.   (Original) The network-based sales system comprising:

a merchant computer sending an order of a product;

a defining unit; and

an EDP (Electronic Data Processing) system, wherein said defining unit defines a bar

code of said product in response to said order, and notifies said EDP system of said bar code, and

said EDP system manages stock of a merchant based on said bar code.

4.   (Original) A network-based sales system comprising:

a merchant computer sending an order of a product;

a defining unit;

a formal product master database to which registered bar code s for formally-registered

products are registered, wherein said defining unit accesses said formal product master database

in response to said order to see if a product bar code for said product is registered as one of said

registered bar codes, and defines said product bar code of said product to register said product

bar code into said formal product master database as one of said registered bar codes when said

product bar code for said product is not registered as one of said registered bar codes.

5.   (Original) The network-based sales system according to claim 4, further comprising a

distribution managing computer, wherein said defining unit notifies said distribution managing

computer of said product bar code, and said distribution managing computer manages

distribution of said product based on said product bar code.

6.   (Original) The network-based sales system according to claim 4, further comprising a

production managing computer, wherein said defining unit notifies said production managing

computer of said production bar code, and said production managing computer manages

production of said product based on said product bar code.

7.   (Currently Amended) The network-based sales system according to claim 4, further

comprising an EDP system, wherein said defining unit notifies said EDP system of said product

bar code, and said EDP system manages stock of a merchant based on said product bar code.

8.   (Original) The network-based sales system according to claim 4, further comprising:

    a tentative product master database having tentative product data concerning tentatively-

registered products, wherein said defining unit extracts formal product data concerning said

product from said tentative product master database to register said formal product data to said

formal product master database when said product is registered as one of said tentatively-

registered products.

9.   (Original) The network-based sales system according to claim 8, wherein said tentative

product data comprises prices of said tentatively-registered products, and said formal product

data comprises a price of said product.

10.   (Original) The network-based sales system according to claim 8, further comprising a distribution managing computer, wherein said defining unit notifies said distribution managing computer of said product bar code and said formal product data, and said distribution managing computer manages distribution of said product based on said product bar code and said formal product data.

11.   (Original) The network-based sales system according to claim 8, further comprising a production managing computer, wherein said defining unit notifies said production managing computer of said production bar code and said formal product data, and said production managing computer manages production of said product based on said product bar code and said formal product data.

12.   (Original) The network-based sales system according to claim 8, further comprising an EDP system, wherein said defining notifies said EDP system of said product bar code and said formal product data, and said EDP system manages stock of a merchant based on said product bar code and said formal product data.

13.   (Canceled)

14.   (Original) A network-based sales method comprising:

        sending an order of a product through a computer network;

defining a bar code of said product in response to said order; and

managing distribution of said product based on said bar code.

15. (Original) A network-based sales method comprising:

sending an order of a product through a computer network;

defining a bar code of said product in response to said order; and

managing production of said product based on said bar code.

16. (Original) A network-based sales method comprising:

sending an order of a product through a computer network;

defining a bar code of said product in response to said order; and

managing stock of a merchant based on said bar code.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)